

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1921.

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

(1921—1922).

Chairman: Alderman T. S. CHAYNEY.

His Worship the Mayor.	Councillor J. C. GRUMMANT.
Alderman J. W. CHAPMAN.	„ H. T. HOLLANDS
„ H. C. CHILD, J.P.	„ J. S. LANGLEY.
„ C. R. WOOD, J.P.	„ F. C. LLEWELLYN.
„ J. W. WOODHALL.	„ T. W. MOCKRIDGE.
Councillor W. M. BERRY.	„ R. W. PHILPOTT.
„ W. H. BRADLEY.	„ T. H. PRESTEDGE.
„ H. G. BUSH.	„ A. D. SACKETT.
„ W. COLEMAN, J.P.	„ DAME JANET
„ R. V. CROW.	„ STANCOMB-WILLS.
„ Mrs. DUNN.	„ H. TERRY.
Councillor T. B. H. TISDELL.	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. DUNN.

His Worship the Mayor.	Councillor H. TERRY.
Alderman H. C. CHILD, J.P.	„ Dame JANET
Councillor W. M. BERRY.	„ STANCOMB-WILLS.
„ H. T. HOLLANDS.	Miss E. CHANING-PEARCE.
„ T. W. MOCKRIDGE.	Mrs. A. DANIEL.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman: His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A. W. LARKIN).

Vice-Chairman: Rev. E. L. A. HERTSLET.

Alderman J. W. CHAPMAN.	Councillor R. W. PHILPOTT.
„ T. S. CHAYNEY.	„ Dame JANET
Councillor W. COLEMAN, J.P.	„ STANCOMB-WILLS.
„ Mrs. DUNN.	Mr. E. F. G. CHAPMAN.
„ J. S. LANGLEY.	Rev. J. A. FOX.
„ T. W. MOCKRIDGE.	Miss L. WHITING.
„ F. C. LLEWELLYN.	Mr. C. WICKS, J.P.

HEALTH OFFICE,

26, ALBION PLACE,

RAMSGATE.

April, 1922.

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Ramsgate.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1921 on the Health and Sanitation of the Borough and on the School Medical Service, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and Board of Education.

On the whole the vital statistics for the Borough compare favourably with those for similar districts and for the rest of England and Wales. The somewhat increased prevalence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria towards the end of the year was not unexpected, coinciding with an increased prevalence in the country generally and following a series of years in which the incidence of these diseases was exceptionally low in the Borough. The facilities available through the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory proved very useful in preventing the spread of Diphtheria and it is gratifying to know that the assistance rendered in early diagnosis, detection of "carrier" cases, etc., was appreciated by the medical practitioners of the Borough.

I would acknowledge the assistance rendered by my medical colleagues, the loyal co-operation of all the members of the staff of the department, and would express my gratitude to the Chairmen of Committees and Members of the Council for their courtesy during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. BANNISTER,

*Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.*

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Staff of the Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer and Bacteriologist:

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., B.S., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. T. SMITH, Assoc. R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

E. YOUNG, Assoc. R.S.I.

Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.I.

Health Visitors:

MISS A. ASHWELL.

MISS M. CRUISE. * †

MISS E. HALFORD. * †

MISS R. HOWELLS.

* Certificated Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

† Certificated Health Visitor, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerks:

S. GORHAM,

A. SAWORD.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

1. General Statistics.

Area of the Borough in Acres (excluding Foreshore) ...	2,278
Population, Census, 1911	29,605
Population, Census, 1921	36,560
Population, as adjusted by the Registrar General for statistical purposes	30,080
Rateable Value	£153,867
Sum represented by a penny rate	£575
Rainfall, 1921	10'91 ins.
Sunshine, 1921	1998'5 hrs.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1921.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births	Legitimate	598	318	280	} Birth Rate 21'39.
	Illegitimate	43	17	26	

Deaths	401	200	201	Death Rate 13'33.
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------------------

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	...	...	}	from sepsis	...	Nil.
				from other causes	...	Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births:—

Legitimate	...	68'64.	Illegitimate	...	14'04.	Total	...	82'68.
------------	-----	--------	--------------	-----	--------	-------	-----	--------

Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	...	...	1.
„ Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	20.

The following TABLE has been drawn up to render possible a comparison as regards Vital Statistics of 1921, between Ramsgate and England and Wales as a whole, 96 Great Towns, 148 Smaller Towns, (populations 20,000 to 50,000), and London.

	Birth-Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	22.4	12.1	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.23	0.44	15.5	83	25.5	92.5	6.4	1.1
96 Great Towns, including London (1911 Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	23.3	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.15	0.23	0.40	19.3	87	33.2	92.5	6.8	0.7
148 Smaller Towns (1911 Census Populations 20,000—50,000)	22.7	11.3	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.03	0.11	0.11	0.26	0.35	15.6	84	17.7	93.5	5.1	1.4
London	22.3	12.4	0.01	—	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.25	0.23	0.42	21.3	80	49.2	91.6	8.2	0.2
RAMSGATE	21.39	13.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.43	0.09	0.26	31.2	82	32.3	91.9	5.5	2.6

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

THE BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE, situated in the most favoured position in the Isle of Thanet, has a South aspect. It covers an area of 2,306 acres, and is roughly triangular in shape, having the sea along the whole of its base, which extends from the adjoining district of Broadstairs on the north-east to the Borough boundary west of Pegwell. With the exception of a small area near the Royal Harbour, the Borough may be said to stand on high ground with a fine outlook on the sea and views of the Kent coastline and hills towards the South Foreland. The many natural advantages include a sub-soil of chalk, comparative freedom from rain and fog, abundant sunshine, an equable temperature, and protection from north and east winds. A large expanse of particularly fine clean sand covers most of the foreshore. Ramsgate consequently has been long famous as a health resort, and is at present essentially a seaside health and pleasure resort and residential town. With the exception of the various activities in connection with a large fishing industry and some minor industries, the inhabitants are chiefly occupied in catering for the wants and pleasures of residents and the large number of visitors during the season. The low rainfall, much bright sunshine, and breezes from the open sea render Ramsgate an ideal place for recuperation for those run down in health. The natural advantages and amenities of the town render it a favourite place of residence for persons retiring from active life, and induce a certain number of parents to take up their permanent residence here with the object of restoring their delicate children to robust health.

For administrative purposes the Borough is divided into two Parishes, Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Intra; and into six Wards: East Cliff, West Cliff, East Central, West Central, Sir Moses Montefiore and St. Lawrence.

Meteorology.

The following tables give information in reference to some of the meteorological observations made in the Borough:—

The Borough Surveyor has kindly furnished the records of Sunshine, taken on the roof of the Municipal Offices, and the Gas and Water Engineer those of Rainfall and Temperatures, taken at the Southwood Water Works:—

SUNSHINE, 1921.

Month.	Total sunshine in hours.	Daily average in hours.
January ...	45·5	1·46
February ...	81·7	2·91
March ...	161·5	5·2
April ...	234·9	7·83
May ...	259·5	8·37
June ...	216·5	7·21
July ...	293·9	9·48
August ...	208·1	6·71
September ...	194·6	6·48
October ...	174·8	5·63
November ...	89·6	2·98
December ...	37·9	1·22
Total ...	1998·5	

RAINFALL, 1921.

Month.	Total in Inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours.	No. of Days with Rain, 0·01 or more.
January ...	1·64	·50 on 13th	17
February ...	·65	·28 on 25th	8
March ...	·94	·26 on 6th	11
April ...	1·03	·43 on 12th	9
May ...	·92	·24 on 26th	10
June ...	·20	·13 on 3rd	3
July ...	·12	·11 on 28th	3
August ...	1·03	·27 on 13th	10
September ...	·63	·30 on 11th	6
October ...	·97	·81 on 20th	5
November ...	1·74	·67 on 2nd	8
December ...	1·04	·21 on 14th	17
Total ...	10·91		

MEAN TEMPERATURES, 1921.

	deg.		deg.
January ...	45·03	July ...	64·38
February ...	41·14	August ...	64·16
March ...	45·03	September ...	60·76
April ...	46·66	October ...	57·77
May ...	52·87	November ...	43·40
June ...	56·70	December ...	44·25

Lowest Mean Temperature, 33·50 degs., on 30th November.

Highest Mean Temperature, 73·50 degs., on 14th September.

3.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1921.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	AGE INCIDENCE.													Total Deaths.
			(Number in brackets indicate Deaths).													
			Under	1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	
Diphtheria... ..	128	92	1	3 (1)	5 (3)	6 (2)	6 (1)	53 (5)	36 (1)	8	8	2	2	...	13	
Scarlet Fever	249	199	1	6	6	6	14	115	67	17	10	4	3	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia... ..	13	...	(7)	(2)	(1)	...	...	(2)	(1)	...	1	4 (3)	4 (4)	2 (9)	29
Encephalitis Lethargica..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Dysentery	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	14	...	...	...	...	...	..	2	...	1	2	3	2	4	...
Malaria	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis:																
Pulmonary M....	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
" F....	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	7 (3)	28 (15)	15 (7)	9 (5)	...	30
Non-Pulmonary M. ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
" F. ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	19	...	1 (3)	... (1)	... (1)	1	...	5 (2)	6	1 (2)	5 (1)	... (3)	...	...	13
Total	510	296														139

	Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	8	...	7	1	Nil	Nil

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

In common with the rest of the country there was an increased prevalence of Diarrhœa and Enteritis in young children in the Borough following the abnormal hot, dry weather of the summer. During the year twenty deaths of children under two years of age were certified as due to Diarrhœa or Enteritis, as compared with six deaths in 1920.

The causes of, and ages at, death of infants under one year is shown in the Table which follows.

Following a series of years in which the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria was exceptionally low these diseases became more prevalent towards the end of the year. The total number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified was 249, as compared with 92 in 1920, the

disease was of a very mild type and no deaths of residents resulted therefrom. Most of the patients had only a slight sore throat and a rash which quickly disappeared and the fact that some parents considered such slight illnesses to be the effects of "colds" in all probability led to a greater incidence than would otherwise have occurred. A considerable number of "return" cases also occurred. In view of the fact that during the preceding seven years there was a very low incidence of this disease in the Borough, the notifications not having exceeded 100 in any year since 1914, it is probable that it will remain somewhat prevalent during the year 1922.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against the mother of a child who had been notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act as suffering from Scarlet Fever. The mother was a visitor to the town, and although warned by the medical practitioner who had notified the case, not to expose her child, she forthwith hired a public taxicab, not having informed the owner that the child was infectious, and returned in it to London. Two summonses were issued against the mother, one "for exposing an infected person" under Sec. 126 P.H.A. 1875, and one "for entering a public conveyance without notifying the owner" under Sec. 63 P.H.A.A.A. 1907. She was fined £3 or 21 days imprisonment in the first case, and £2 or 11 days imprisonment in the second case. This incident occurred in September when a large number of visitors were in the town.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the year was 128 and some of these were of a severe type, a total of 13 deaths resulting. In view of the fact that in antitoxin we possess a practically certain cure provided it is administered in the early stages of the disease, it is regrettable to have to record this mortality. In several instances parents failed to seek medical aid until the disease was far advanced and consequently hope of cure rendered slight. Throughout the year medical practitioners in the Borough availed themselves of the facilities provided at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory for the free examination of swabs and of arrangements by which at any time during the day or night they can procure supplies of diphtheria antitoxin.

Influenza, chiefly of a mild respiratory type, was prevalent at the end of the year. A total of three deaths were attributed to the disease during the year.

Inquests.

Inquests were held by the Coroner for the district as to the causes of death of nineteen persons who died in the Borough during the year:

SUICIDES.....	4	OTHER CAUSES...	7
By Hanging	2	Pernicious Anaemia ...	1
By Drowning	1	Inattention at Birth ...	1
Self-inflicted Wound of the		Old Endocarditis and Hy-	
Throat	1	pertrophy	1
ACCIDENTS	8	Acute Endocarditis ...	1
Drowning	3	Sudden Heart Failure ...	1
Fracture of Skull... ..	1	Bullet Wound	1
Injury (shock)	4	Drowning	1

Uncertified Deaths.

During the year nine deaths which occurred in the Borough were "uncertified," *i.e.*, were registered although a certificate as to the cause of death by a medical practitioner was not given nor an inquest held. The local Registrar of Deaths does not register such deaths until the Coroner intimates, after having enquired into the circumstances, that he does not consider an inquest to be necessary.

The percentage of uncertified deaths in the Borough was 2·1, which although comparing favourably with the percentage for 1920, *i.e.*, 4·2, nevertheless compares unfavourably with the percentage of 1·1 for England and Wales, of 0·7 for 96 great towns and very unfavourably with the figure for London 0·2.

The ages at which the uncertified death occurred and the causes to which they were attributed were as follows :

CAUSE OF DEATH.						AGE.
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	15
Senile Decay and Heart Failure	...	...	...	...	...	92, 73
Heart Failure	...	...	...	...	...	44
Chronic Nephritis and Heart Failure	...	...	...	...	...	59
Senile Decay...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	7, 2
Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	...	65

MORTALITY TABLE.
BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE, 1921.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.
All Causes { Certified ... { Uncertified ...	198 2	196 5
Enteric Fever	—	—
Small-pox... ..	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1
Diphtheria	6	7
Influenza	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	18	12
Other Tuberculous Diseases	7	6
Cancer, Malignant Disease	20	24
Rheumatic Fever	—	1
Diabetes	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	11	16
Heart Disease	15	25
Arterio-sclerosis... ..	4	3
Bronchitis	8	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	14	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	13	7
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis... ..	8	4
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition... ..	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	7	8
Suicide	3	2
Other Deaths from Violence	6	2
Other Defined Diseases	49	48
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	1
	200	201

INFANT MORTALITY.—1921.

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Cause of Death.				Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes { Certified ...				10	2	4	2	18	10	12	7	6	53
{ Uncertified				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Small-pox ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Chicken-pox ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Measles ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Scarlet Fever ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Whooping Cough ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Diphtheria ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Erysipelas ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Tuberculous Meningitis ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
{ Meningitis ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Convulsions ...				...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	2
{ Laryngitis ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Bronchitis ...				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ...				...	1	1	...	2	1	...	2	2	7
{ Diarrhoea ...				...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	2	9
{ Enteritis... ...				...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	5
{ Gastritis... ...				...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	3
{ Syphilis ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Rickets ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Suffocation (overlying) ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Injury at Birth... ...				1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Atelectasis ...				1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
{ Congenital Malformations ...				...	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	4
{ Premature Birth ...				6	...	1	...	7	1	...	...	...	8
{ Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus ...				1	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
{ Other Causes ...				1	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	3
				10	2	4	2	18	10	12	7	6	53

Net Births in the year { Legitimate, 598.
 { Illegitimate, 43.

Net Deaths in the year { Legitimate Infants, 44.
 { Illegitimate Infants, 9.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Nurses employed by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence District Nursing Association and the St. George's Parish Nurse carry out the general nursing of patients at their homes in the Borough.

In times of emergency these Nurses are assisted in this work by members of the Ramsgate Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

Home nursing of children suffering from the minor infectious diseases, ophthalmia neonatorum, etc., is carried out by the Council's Health Visitors and in the event of further assistance being required, as for instance during epidemics of Measles, Influenza, etc., an arrangement exists by which the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Nursing Association have agreed to co-operate and provide nursing assistance in the homes for fifty cases in any year, a payment of 2/6 to be made to the Association by the Town Council in respect of each case nursed at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

Midwives.

Although the Town Council is the authority responsible for the administration of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme for the Borough, under present arrangements the Midwives Acts, 1902-1918, are administered by the Kent County Council. The Midwives practising in the Borough are consequently supervised from Maidstone—an obviously unsatisfactory arrangement which causes an important part of the work affecting the welfare of mothers and children in the Borough to be supervised by an authority outside the Borough. No Midwife is employed or subsidised by the Council. No particulars as to the number or qualifications of the Midwives who during the year practised in the district are available.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided at Curtis House, Cliff Street, by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Maternity Association and Mothercraft Club working in co-ordination with the Council.

Infant consultation clinics are conducted on Friday afternoons by the Medical Officer of the Centre, a local medical practitioner, who on alternate Wednesdays also conducts a consultation clinic for children aged 1 to 5 years and for expectant mothers.

The School Inspection and Treatment Clinic is provided by the Local Education Authority at the Health Office and is held on five mornings each week.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary provided by the Kent County Council for the Borough and neighbouring districts is at Charlotte Cottage, Market Place, and during the year was open on one day each week.

The Ramsgate Creche, supported by voluntary contributions, is in Hereson Road.

There is no Venereal Diseases Clinic in the Borough, that provided for the Isle of Thanet by the Kent County Council is held at Eaton House, St. Peter's Road, Margate.

Hospitals.

The Ramsgate General Hospital, West Cliff Road, chiefly supported by voluntary contributions, is a modern institution with 40 beds established for the treatment of the sick poor resident in the Borough and in neighbouring districts and for disabled seamen of all nations brought to the Port of Ramsgate. The Honorary Staff consists of two Physicians, three Surgeons, and a Dental Surgeon.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital for the Borough are those used in conjunction with the other local authorities in the Isle of Thanet and are situate at Haine, just outside the Borough Boundary. There is accommodation in two wards for 74 Scarlet Fever cases, in one ward for 19 Diphtheria cases and in one ward for 19 Enteric Fever cases, a total of 112 beds. The Small-pox Hospital is in the same neighbourhood on a separate site and has 16 beds.

The Poor Law Infirmary is at Minster, some five miles from the centre of the Borough.

There is no Hospital for Tuberculosis or for Maternity cases in or near the Borough.

The Thanet Hostel for Unmarried Mothers, 41, South Eastern Road, was established in 1920 and accommodates an average of ten unmarried mothers and their children.

Ambulance facilities for infectious cases were improved during the year and the horse drawn conveyances hitherto used by the several local authorities in the Isle of Thanet were rendered no longer necessary owing to the provision by the Joint Hospital Board of a Motor Ambulance.

For the non-infectious and accident cases the Motor Ambulance and services of the Ramsgate division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade are available.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

A chemical analysis of water from the public supply is carried out each quarter by the Public Analyst. Periodical chemical and bacteriological examinations are also carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. The source and consistent good quality of the constant water supply of the Borough has been referred to in detail in previous annual reports.

A sample of water taken on 11th June, 1921, and submitted to chemical Analysis at the South Eastern Analytical Laboratory, Canterbury, was reported on as follows:

WATER ANALYSIS—BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

All numerical results expressed in grains per gallon.

Description of Sample ... "From Public Supply, Letter B."

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear
Colour	...	...	...	...	Blue green
Smell	...	...	...	...	Normal
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	10.99
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	...	...	...	...	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.81
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0020
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	...	...	...	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	...	...	...	...	0.016
Hardness before boiling (total)	...	...	...	...	23.1
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	...	...	...	...	7.3
Total Solid Matter	...	...	...	...	46.32
Microscopical Examination of Deposit	...	...	...	...	Slight and unimportant
Chlorine as "Salt"	...	...	...	...	18.11

REMARKS.—The above results are satisfactory throughout and indicate water organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The Microscopical Examination is also satisfactory.

Both the "Chlorine" in "Chlorides" and "Total Solid Matter" have decreased since last reported upon in March of this year.

(Signed) ERNEST M. HAWKINS

Public Analyst, Borough of Ramsgate.

All the ordinary bacteriological work required in the Borough is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory at the Health Office.

During the year 1921 the following specimens were examined and reported upon:—

	Total number examined.	Number positive.
Swabs from Throat and Noses—		
As to the presence of Diphtheria bacilli ...	1,064	175
As to the presence of Vincent's Organisms ...	5	3
As to the presence of Other Organisms ...	18	5
Sputum—		
As to the presence of Tubercle bacilli ...	67	9
As to the presence of Other Organisms ...	8	3
Blood—		
As to Widal Reaction ...	14	4
As to the presence of Malaria parasites ...	2	—
Cerebro Spinal Fluid—		
As to the presence of Tubercle bacilli ...	1	—
As to Widal Reaction ...	1	—
Urine—		
As to the presence of Tubercle bacilli ...	2	—
Pus—		
As to the presence of Tubercle bacilli ...	5	3
As to the presence of Anthrax bacilli ...	1	—
As to the presence of Gonococci ...	17	6
Hairs—		
As to infection by Ringworm Fungus ...	70	50
Other Pathological Materials Examined ...	5	2
Total ...	1,280	270

Issue of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Health Office and issued to local medical practitioners on request. During the year arrangements were made by which practitioners can in emergency or at night time obtain antitoxin from the Police Station where a small stock is kept and replaced as required.

In 1921 a total of 390,000 units of diphtheria antitoxin were supplied to local medical practitioners, the total cost to the Council in respect of 174,000 units issued for use in cases in which it would not otherwise have

been obtainable owing to necessitous circumstances, in accordance with the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910, was £12 6s. 6d.

A small stock of Anti-Tetanus Serum and of Influenza Vaccine is also kept at the Health Office for issue to local medical practitioners.

List of Adopted Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., in force in the Borough.

ADOPTED ACTS.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE.

Common Lodging Houses (P.H. Act, 1875, S.80).

Houses Let in Lodgings (P.H. Act, 1875, Sec. 90).

Cleansing, Etc., and Removal of Refuse (P.H. Act, 1875, S.44).

Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc. (H.W.C. Act, 1885, S.9 (2)).

Slaughter-houses (P.H. Act, 1875, S.169).

Prevention of Nuisances (P.H. Act, 1875, S.44).

Keeping of Animals (P.H. Act, 1875, S.44).

Offensive Trades (P.H. Act, 1875, S.113).

New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Act, 1875, S.157, and P.H.A. Act, 1890, S.23).

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

7.—ADMINISTRATION.

Notification of Births Act.

During the year 633 births were notified; of these 617 were live births and 16 were stillbirths; in addition, there were 9 births in the Borough which were not notified. Failure to notify births as required by the Act has now become infrequent in this Borough. In each instance of failure the attention of the party responsible is drawn to the omission and an explanation is requested. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee accepted pleas of ignorance of the requirements of the Act on the part of the parents and of forgetfulness on the part of medical practitioners and no legal proceedings were instituted during the year. Parents and doctors notified 317 births, and midwives 316; ten of the stillbirths were notified by doctors and six by midwives. The number of births registered for the Borough during the year was 641 giving a birth-rate of 21·39 per 1,000, as compared with the rate of 28·08 in 1920.

Work of Health Visitors.

In previous annual reports the general work carried out by the Health Visitors is given in detail. During the year 4,475 visits were made to 605 infants under 1 year; 916 visits to 492 children between the age of 1 and 5 years and 340 visits to expectant mothers. Except in cases in which visits are not indicated, efforts are made to visit all births which occur in the Borough. Mothers are invited to attend with their infants at the Centre at which two of the Council's Health Visitors attend on the days it is open.

Nursing assistance was rendered at the homes by the Health Visitors in the 8 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year, in 18 cases of measles, in 70 cases of chicken-pox, in 22 cases of whooping cough, in 30 cases of diarrhoea, in 12 cases of influenza, and in 11 other cases.

Issue of Milk in Necessitous Cases.

Throughout the year arrangements were in force by which, after investigation as to financial circumstances, necessitous mothers were supplied with milk for themselves or for their infants. On the recission in March of the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, arrangements in accordance with Circular 185 of the Ministry of Health were made for the continuance of supplies. Mothers who were granted milk were as a rule certified at the Centre to be in need of it for themselves or for their infants, owing to health reasons, by the Medical Officer of the Centre ; in other cases certificates were given by the Medical Officer of Health. The total cost to the Council during the year for fresh milk supplied was £27 12s. 2d. and for dried milk £36 16s. 0d.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Previous annual reports described the arrangements made by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Maternity Association, working in co-ordination with the Town Council, at their premises Curtis House and Cliff House, Cliff Street.

During the year 50 sessions were held at the Centre on Fridays, on each occasion an infant consultation clinic was conducted by the Medical Officer of the Centre, a local medical practitioner, the number of consultations was 623 in connection with 275 individual infants. A consultation clinic for children aged one to five years and for expectant mothers was also held on 19 Wednesdays in which 106 individual children and 34 expectant mothers were seen by the Medical Officer. The total number of attendances of mothers at the Centre was 2,454.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Borough has an efficient water carriage system which has the great advantage of simplicity, owing to the fact that the formation of the land rendered it possible to lay the sewers so that the sewage flows freely by gravitation from all parts of the town to the sea. Pumping plants, tank sewers, etc., are subsequently absent from the system. The sewers which are ventilated and regularly flushed with water, unite near the Harbour and form the outfall sewer in which the sewage is conveyed to a point over 1,250 ft. from the shore. This site was chosen for the outfall many years ago after extensive float experiments had proved that at whatever state of the tide the sewage may be there discharged, it is carried by current straight out to sea.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse.

The Corporation collects refuse daily from all premises in the town, this is conveyed to the four-celled Horsfall Destructor in an outlying portion of the town. This work is carried out by the Works Department, and the Borough Engineer has supplied information that 7,778 tons of refuse were collected and dealt with during the year, the average amount each month being 648 tons. In addition, 2,770 loads of road sweepings and 647 loads of gulley mud were collected.

During the year efforts to ensure that all premises shall have impermeable receptacles with moveable covers for the deposition of refuse in accordance with the Bye-Laws were continued ; inspections of 3,415 houses showed that only 1,490 had proper receptacles, and during the year 1,752 suitable refuse receptacles were provided on preliminary notices being served, 171 on statutory notices being served, and 2 were provided by the local authority and cost recovered from the owners by the institution of legal proceedings.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Throughout the year considerable work was done in connection with the extermination of rats and mice in the Borough. Sixty-four visits of inspection to premises were made, owners and occupiers were advised by the Sanitary Inspector, who is the Officer appointed under the Act, as to the best methods of destroying rodents. Approved poisons obtained through the Kent County Council were supplied at cost price, and instructions given as to the correct methods of preparing and laying the baits. Arrangements are also in force by which occupiers of premises can secure the services of a professional rat catcher upon payment of charges in accordance with a scale approved by the Council. A special campaign against rodents was undertaken in "Rat Week," articles on the matter were inserted in the local press and by arrangement with cinema proprietors a notice was shown on the screens at each session during the week calling the attention of the public to the desirability of using every means to destroy rats and mice and to the duties of occupiers under the Act. There is no doubt that a large number of rodents was exterminated in the Borough during the year.

Sanitary Condition of Theatres, Music Halls, etc.

During the year sixty-four visits of inspection were made by the Sanitary Inspector to these premises in the Borough and reports were made both to the Council and to the Licensing Authority in cases in which conditions were found to be unsatisfactory. Of the thirty-two premises in the Borough which are licensed for music and dancing, twenty-one were found to be in a satisfactory condition, and on certain unsatisfactory conditions in connection with eleven premises being reported by the Sanitary Inspector to the Licensing Authority the Justices refused to renew the licences until the necessary work was carried out. The defects or undesirable conditions remedied in these premises were as follows:—

- Interior of building thoroughly cleansed, redecorated, and new W.C. provided.
- Entire new lavatory for males constructed, containing 1 W.C. and 2 urinals.
- Interior of building thoroughly cleansed, redecorated, and new W.C. provided.
- Interior of building thoroughly cleansed and repaired.
- New system of ventilation (Boyles) installed.
- Repairs to building carried out.
- Two new W.C.'s constructed, containing 2 W.C.'s and urinal stalls, for **Artistes** and a lavatory for public use.
- Ventilation of hall improved.
- Four new W.C.'s provided and sanitary fittings repaired.
- Three new urinal stalls constructed.
- One building **was** in an **extreme state** of dilapidation and renewal of the licence **was** refused.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following tabular statement summarises the work carried out during the year by the Inspectors, and has been prepared by Mr. W. T. Smith, Sanitary Inspector. The necessary supervision of all work carried

out under the various notices served, including some left over from the previous year, made considerable demands on the time of the Inspectors, and the following particulars show the large amount of labour involved in supervising the sanitary condition of dwelling houses and other premises in the Borough.

INSPECTIONS.

Under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	2,212
Of houses, number inspected under H.T.P. Acts, etc.	...	...	...	...	203
In connection with infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	385
Of Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	34
— Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	53
— Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	22
— Milkshops	...	...	...	...	78
— Dairies	...	...	...	...	30
— Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	207
— Marine Store Dealers premises	...	...	...	...	22
— Premises at which are conducted Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	70
— Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	30
— Slaughter houses and knackers yard	...	...	...	...	163
— Fish Market	...	...	...	...	16
— Stables	...	...	...	...	43
— Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	82
— Premises as to provision of refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	5,543
— Licensed piggeries	...	...	...	...	36
— General Inspections with Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	12
— Premises with reference to rat infestation	...	...	...	...	64
— Premises licensed for music and dancing	...	...	...	...	64
— Premises under Rent Restriction Act, (Certificates)	...	...	...	...	15
— Schools	...	...	...	...	27
— Shipping	...	...	...	...	2

NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Statutory notices served...	...	...	...	...	203
Preliminary notices served or letters written	...	...	...	...	333
Nuisances abated on notice or letter	...	...	...	...	445
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	...	...	...	...	164
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	317
Complaints referred to other departments	...	...	...	...	18
Frivolous complaints received	...	...	...	...	16

COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

A record of all complaints received is kept at the Health Office, and during the year 317 complaints were made. Sixteen of these were frivolous or concerning matters which could not be dealt with by the Health Department under the several Acts.

Of the other 301 complaints :—

12 were referred to the Borough Surveyor's Department :—

Offensive odours from street gullies	...	...	...	...	3
Choked sewers	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive urinal in Council's allotment gardens	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous wall abutting on to public footway	...	...	...	...	1
Unauthorised building	...	...	...	...	1
Unswept public passage	...	...	...	...	1
Non-removal of house refuse	...	...	...	...	1

4 to the Gas and Water Department :—

Coal gas escaping from street main into house	...	...	...	...	1
Contamination of domestic water supply	...	...	...	...	2
Waste of Water	...	...	...	...	1

2 to the Police :—

Committing nuisance in public passage	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from cock crowing	...	...	...	...	1

The remaining 283 may be roughly classified as follows :—

Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	35
Smells from drains	...	...	...	...	...	14
Refuse dumped	...	...	...	...	...	18
Unsound articles of food...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Damp houses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	...	22
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective or insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	...	24
Accumulation of manure	...	...	...	...	...	7
Choked or defective waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rats on premises	...	...	...	...	...	14
Leaky roofs	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective stoves, cooking ranges or coppers...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Improper keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	20

With two exceptions, the nuisances discovered during the year were abated on service of informal or statutory notices. Legal proceedings were taken against the owner of a dwelling house having a leaky roof and defective water closet. The defendant did not appear and the Justices made an order for the work to be completed within fourteen days, and imposed a fine of £5 and costs. The works were then completed within the time specified. In one case it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings for the recovery of cost of suitable refuse receptacles which had been supplied by the Authority under Sec. 36. Public Health Act, 1875, owing to non-compliance with the Statutory notices served on the owner to provide same. The Justices made an order for payment of the amount claimed and 3/6 costs.

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRAINAGE OF PREMISES.

Houses, Drains Tested.

After infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	191
On complaint or alteration of drainage	...	...	...	...	...	73
Number of houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of houses, drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	53
New inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	...	38
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	26
New covers to inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection chambers rendered	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective soil or ventilating pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	40
New pedestal closets or closet basins or traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	52
New flushing cisterns to W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fresh air inlet valves renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	38
Cesspools and underground rainwater cisterns abolished	...	...	...	...	...	17
New water closets erected	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	7

Housing.

The following defects were remedied and improvements carried out :

Defective flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	54
Block drains cleared in notice	...	...	...	32
New stoneware sinks and baths provided	...	...	...	21
Waste pipes renewed and trapped	...	...	...	57
Rainwater pipes or guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	36
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	27
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	...	...	...	22
New floors laid or repaired	...	...	...	14
New sanitary refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	1,925
Rainwater pipes disconnected from the drain	...	...	...	7
Dampness in walls abated	...	...	...	17
Stoves, ranges or coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	23
Broken plaster of walls or ceiling repaired	...	...	...	29
Broken sashcords renewed	...	...	...	38
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous defects	...	...	...	43

With Respect to Refuse Receptacles.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	3,415
Number found with suitable receptacles	...	...	...	1,490
Number without suitable receptacles	...	...	...	1,925
Number provided on preliminary notice	...	...	...	1,752
Number provided on statutory notice	...	...	...	171
Number supplied by the local authority on default and the cost recovered from owners	...	...	...	2

With Respect to Overcrowding.

Rooms measured as to overcrowding	...	...	...	15
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	7

With Respect to Dirty Houses.

Houses cleansed	...	...	...	2
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	11
Dirty closet basins cleansed	...	...	...	7
Interior of water closets cleansed	...	...	...	9
Interior of common washhouses limewashed	...	...	...	10

With Respect to Water Supply.

Corroded water service renewed to houses	...	...	...	6
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	6

With Respect to Keeping of Animals.

Removal of animals improperly kept	...	...	...	5
Stable yard paving repaired	...	...	...	2
Pigstyes cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	12
Inspection of piggeries	...	...	...	46
Notices or letters written or verbal instructions re removal of manure	...	...	...	14

With Respect to Schools.

Sanitary conveniences, inspections	...	...	...	27
Nuisances remedied	...	...	...	10

During the year the carcasses of nine dead animals were removed from the foreshore and destroyed at the destructor.

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH HOUSES IN WHICH INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRED.

Drain Testing.

Disease.	No. of Houses the drains of which were Tested.	No. found to have Slight Defects.	No. found to have Serious Defects.	No. found to have no Defects.
Scarlet Fever	140	49	18	73
Diphtheria	51	17	8	26

The defects discovered were remedied on service of intimation notices. An entirely new drainage system was found to be necessary in the case of eight houses.

Disinfection.

In connection with 382 cases of infectious disease which were removed to the Isle of Thanet Isolation Hospital, Haine, or isolated at home, and other diseases and conditions, the following disinfecting work was carried out:—

Disease or Cause.	Number of Houses.		Number of Rooms.	
Scarlet Fever	221	...	234 (and 1 cab)
Diphtheria	95	...	103
Enteric Fever	2	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	2	...	2
Phthisis	39	...	56
Cancer	10	...	14
Vermin	1	...	1
Other causes	1	...	1
Total	371	...	413 (and 1 cab)

Also 383 sets of bedding, clothing, etc., were removed from houses, disinfected at the station and returned. The Corporation's Disinfecting Station, in which is installed a Manlove Alliot Steam Disinfector, is situate in Broad Street, and all articles removed for disinfection are conveyed to it in a special covered van.

The Public Mortuary is on the same premises as the Disinfecting Station.

During the year the Police placed on the Mortuary the bodies of 21 persons who had been killed by accident or had died from other causes.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.

The number of Common Lodging Houses on the register is four. During the year 34 visits of inspection were made and all were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner. Four defects were discovered and remedied.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There were forty-six of these houses on the register at the end of the year to which 53 visits of inspection were made.

During the year 22 minor sanitary defects were discovered and remedied, 12 dirty rooms were cleansed, and overcrowding discovered in 3 rooms was abated. On no occasion were offences discovered for which prosecutions were necessary.

Slaughter Houses.

The number of registered and licensed Slaughter-houses on the register in 1914 and in 1921 was as follows :—

		In 1914.		In January, 1921.		In December, 1921.
Registered	...	14	...	14	...	13
Licensed	...	1	...	1	...	1
		—		—		—
Total	...	15	...	15	...	14
		—		—		—

There is also one licensed knacker's slaughter-house. During the year one registered slaughter-house was removed from the register, the premises having been reconstructed for use as a fish packing store, and four of the registered slaughter-houses were at the end of the year closed and their use temporarily discontinued. One hundred and sixty-three visits of inspection to these premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year; efforts are made to inspect them when slaughtering is in progress, but in view of the fact that the premises are in different parts of the town efficient supervision is difficult. All were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition; notices to two owners to carry out minor repairs and eight notices to carry out limewashing were complied with. No action under the Bye-Laws was necessary during the year.

At the end of the year the Council adopted the Model Bye-Laws of the Ministry of Health with the exception of Clause 9 (a) and (b).

Offensive Trades.

The number of offensive trades carried on in the Borough and inspections of the premises during the year were as follows :—

			Premises.		Inspections.
Fish Friers	...	...	15	...	40
Marine Store Dealers		...	5	...	22
Fat Melters and Bone Boilers			2	...	8

No permit to establish an offensive trade in the Borough was granted during the year; several applications for permission to establish the offensive trade of fish frying were made. One fish frier having substituted a modern stove for one of the old type there now remain in the Borough only three fried fish shops without modern stoves; at the end of the year steps were being taken with a view to having these premises fitted with modern type cooking stoves.

Sanitation of Schools.

The two public elementary schools provided by the local Education Authority are of much more recent construction than the seven non-provided schools, and their equipment and general sanitary condition are quite satisfactory. The type and arrangement of the sanitary conveniences in some of the older schools leave much to be desired; improvements and renovations in this respect should be carried out, all boxed-in types should be replaced by modern pedestal wash-down closets supplied with flushing cisterns.

At the end of the year the attention of the Managers of one of the non-provided schools was drawn to the condition of the sanitary condition of the sanitary conveniences, and replacement by modern closets urged. During the year 27 inspections of the sanitary accommodation at the schools were made by the Sanitary Inspectors and ten defects were discovered and remedied. The ventilation of classrooms is a matter largely dependent upon the Head Teachers, some of whom experience much more difficulty than others in maintaining efficient ventilation owing to the less advantageous arrangement of windows, heating, etc., in the older schools.

All schools have lavatory basins and water from the public supply. These matters are again referred to in the report on the School Medical Service. It may here be stated that the Medical Officer of Health being also the School Medical Officer, no difficulties arise in co-ordinating the public health administrative work with the school medical work, consequently the arrangements for preventing spread of infectious diseases in schools, for the exclusion of children found to be unfit to attend school, etc., work quite smoothly.

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

On several occasions during the year the Council had under consideration the making of arrangements for the carrying out of their statutory duties and obligations as a Riparian Sanitary Authority. A Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health visited the Borough in April, a preliminary enquiry was then held and the amount and nature of the work required in connection with the sanitary administration of the port was fully explained to members of the Council. At another conference in June with members of the Council the Ministry's recommendations to the Council as the Riparian Sanitary Authority were submitted. In view of the fact that the existing staff of the Health Department without further assistance being employed would not be able to carry out the work involved in the sanitary inspection of all ships entering the Harbour and the Council being unwilling to incur further expense at the present time, it was finally resolved that the Ministry of Health be informed that all cases of Infectious Disease entering the Harbour will have the same prompt attention that they have hitherto had equally with other cases of infectious disease in the Borough and that the Corporation do not propose to arrange for the carrying out of any other of the duties set out and enumerated in Circular 221 of the Ministry.

During the year no vessel infected with or suspected of plague or other infectious disease arrived at the port, and probably in consequence of the work of extermination carried out in the previous year there was no evidence of rats in the Harbour. In consequence of complaints received one foreign sailing vessel of 130 tons and one coastwise steamer of 120 tons were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am indebted to the Harbour Master for the following information in reference to shipping which entered the Port during the year 1921 :—

		Number.		Tonnage.
British Vessels (all kinds)	...	3,748	...	159,205
Foreign Vessels...	...	23	...	4,586

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1921, for the Borough of Ramsgate, on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with **F**actories, **W**orkshops, **W**orkplaces and **H**omework.*

TABLE I.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories : (including Factory Laundries) ...	48	6	—
Workshops : (including Workshop Laundries)..	131	9	—
Workplaces : (Other than Outworker's premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	28	2	—
Total	207	17	—

TABLE II.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Act :—		
Want of Cleanliness	8	8
Want of Ventilation	1	1
Overcrowding	—	—
Want of Drainage to Floors	3	3
Other Nuisances	6	6
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient	3	3
{ Unsuitable or Defective	2	2
{ Not Separate for Sexes	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—		
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses	4	4
Other Offences	3	3
Total	30	30

TABLE III.

HOMEWORK.

Outworkers' Lists. Section 107.						
NATURE OF WORK.	Lists received from Employers.					
	Sending twice in a year.			Sending once in a year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Con-tractors	Work-men.		Contractors.	Workmen
Making Wearing Apparel ...	32	—	42	16		21
Furniture and Upholstery...	2	—	4	1		2
Other Trades... ..	—	—	—	—		—
Total ...	34		46	17		23
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists :—						
Making Wearing Apparel ...	10					
Furniture and Upholstery...	2					
Total ...	12					

TABLE IV.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	39
Dressmakers and Milliners	12
Tailors and Bootmakers	21
Laundries	7
Building Trade	30
Upholsterers	4
Engineers and Whitesmiths	18
Printers	8
Miscellaneous	31
Total	170

TABLE V.

OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	—
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	1
Other	—
Underground Bakehouses :—	
Certificates granted during the year	—
In use at the end of the year	7

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses on the register at the end of the year was 39, of these 7 are underground. The use of one underground bakehouse has been discontinued and it has been removed from the register, one bakehouse was not in use during the year. Some of the underground bakehouses are not quite satisfactory as regards lighting and ventilation, and frequent inspections are necessary to ensure that the means provided for ventilation are utilised to the fullest extent. In general, the sanitary conditions of the bakehouses are good.

Eighty-two visits of inspection were made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors, the number of notices served was seven, all of which were complied with.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Most of the Milk consumed in the Borough is rail borne, the remainder being supplied by dairy farmers in the neighbouring rural districts and by owners of milch cows kept in the five cowsheds in the Borough, the average number for the year of these cows was 122 and they were inspected on two occasions by the Council's Veterinary Inspector.

DAIRIES.

Number on the Register on 31st December, 1921	...	...	13
Notices served on Occupiers	...	...	7
Inspections	...	...	30

COWSHEDS.

Number on the Register on 31st December, 1921	...	...	5
Notices served on Occupiers	...	...	4
Inspections	...	...	22

MILKSHOPS.

Number on the Register on 31st December, 1921	...	...	28
Notices served	...	...	5
Inspections	...	...	78

During the year one cowkeeper was ordered by the Council to reconstruct his two cowsheds which were considerably below modern standards of fitness as to construction generally ; rather than do so he discontinued keeping cows in the sheds.

Generally speaking these premises were kept in a satisfactory condition as regards cleanliness and in a good state of repair, and all orders served on occupiers were complied with.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912—1917.

Report for the year ending 31st December, 1921.

All samples of Milk and Cream were taken in accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(1)—Milk, and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.

	(a) Number of Samples examined for the presence of Preservative.	(b) Number in which Preservative reported to be present, and percentage of Preservative found in each Sample.
Milk	40	Nil
Cream	2	Nil

(2)—Cream sold as Preserved Cream.

(a)	Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the labels as to preservatives were correct.				
(i)	Correct statements made	...	...	...	1
(ii)	Statements incorrect	...	...	...	1
					—
					2
					—

(iii) Percentage of preservative found in each sample.	Percentage stated on Statutory Label.
Sample No. 465 ... 0·35	Not to exceed 0·4% Boric Acid
Sample No. 466 ... 0·44	Not to exceed 0·4% Boric Acid

(Vendor of Sample No. 466 was sent a cautionary letter).

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream :

(i) Above 35 per cent ...	...	...	...	2
(ii) Below 35 per cent ...	...	...	...	Nil
				—
				2
				—

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed ... Nil

(d) Particulars as to each case in which Regulations have not been complied with and action taken ... Nil

3. Thickening substances.—Any evidence of their addition to preserved cream. Action taken when found... Nil

4. Other observations, if any ... Nil

Meat and Other Foods.

Difficulties experienced in exercising efficient supervision of the meat killed in the Borough has been referred to in connection with the inspections of slaughter-houses. A large proportion of the meat sold is imported foreign meat, three important firms engaged in the meat importing trade have depots in the town from which they distribute to retailers in all parts of the Isle of Thanet.

Local butchers continue to exercise great care as to the quality of the meat they sell to the public and at once give intimation of any meat, offal, etc., of doubtful quality. By contributions to an insurance fund they are covered against financial loss in respect of any meat which may be condemned. No seizure of meat or any other foodstuffs was made during the year, the unsound food voluntarily surrendered is given in the list which follows.

The arrangement by which vendors of shellfish have cockles, etc., sterilised at the Council's Shellfish Station, was continued, and a total of 55,552 gallons of cockles were dealt with during the year. If intended for consumption in the Borough no charge is made for sterilisation, but if intended for export to other districts a nominal charge of one shilling a bushel is made, £30 8s. 6d. was paid during the year in respect of this sterilisation.

During the summer months considerable trade is done by vendors of ice cream from stalls and barrows on the Sands and other places in the Borough. The premises on which this ice cream is made and stored and the stalls from which it was sold were inspected; 30 visits of inspection were made to fifteen vendors, and fairly satisfactory conditions found.

UNSOUND FOOD.
VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED DURING 1921.
Carcases Condemned for Tuberculosis.

Animals Affected.	Number of Carcases with all internal organs condemned.	Number of Animals of which part of Carcases and all organs were condemned.	Weight. Total Weight in lbs.
Cows	1	Nil	672

Foods Condemned for Other Reasons.

Article.	Condition.	Total weight in lbs.
3 Pigs	Decomposed	350
1 Pig	Strangulation	234
Beef, imported, fore and hind qtrs. ..	Decomposed	783
Mutton, imported, frozen	Decomposed	1429
Bacon, " "	Decomposed	63
Crabs, Prawns and Shrimps	Unsound	648
Fish (wet)... ..	Unsound	504
Rabbits, imported, frozen	Decomposed	34
Corned Beef and Tongue, tinned ...	Decomposed	109
Cheese	Unsound	57
Liver, Bullocks	Cirrhosis	10
Livers, Ox, imported	Unsound	194
Cooked Tripe, imported	Decomposed	57
Pigs plucks	Unsound	28
		4500

Total Weight Condemned - 2 tons 6 cwts. 0 qrs. 20 lbs.

Other unsound food articles were :—45 tins of Preserved Fish, 42 tins of Condensed Milk, 1 jar of Preserved Meat, 466 tins of Jam, 7 tins of Tomatoes, 4 tins of Beans, 6 tins of Preserved Fruits, 1,263 imported Eggs.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 90 samples (60 formal and 30 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspector, who is the Officer appointed under the Acts, and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst.

Article.	Sample.	Found to be Genuine.	Found to be Adulterated.	Total.
Milk	Formal	35	5	40
Butter	Formal	3	2	5
Butter	Informal	1	1	2
Margarine	Informal	6	—	6
Medicine	Formal	3	5	8
Lard	Informal	4	—	4
Cream	Formal	3	1	4
Self-Raising Flour ...	Informal	3	1	4
Self-Raising Flour ...	Formal	—	1	1
Vinegar	Formal	2	—	2
Vinegar	Informal	4	—	4
White Pepper	Informal	3	—	3
Baking Powder	Informal	3	—	3
Camphorated Oil	Informal	2	—	2
Potted Shrimps	Informal	—	1	1
Shrimp Paste	Informal	—	1	1

Particulars of the fourteen formal samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine, and action taken in regard to each of these samples :—

Identification No. of Sample.	Article.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.	Result.
424	Milk	Contained 2·98 of milk fat.	Vendor cautioned	
458	Milk	10% deficient in fat.	Legal proceedings instituted	Fined £1
463	Milk	8% deficient in fat.	Vendor cautioned	
492	Milk	7% extraneous water.	Legal proceedings instituted	Fined £1
493	Milk	7% extraneous water.	Legal proceedings instituted	Fined £1
436	Medicine	63% in excess of Potassium Iodide.	Legal proceedings instituted	Dismissed } Justices upholding an objection by the Defence as to the form in which the Analyst's Certificate was drawn up.
439	Medicine	50% in excess of Sodium Salicylate 60% in excess of Potassium Iodide. 14% in excess of Potassium Bicarb.	Legal proceedings instituted	
441	Medicine	20% in excess of Potassium Iodide. 20% deficient in Sodium Salicylate	Legal proceedings instituted	
440	Medicine	10% in excess of Sodium Salicylate 20% in excess of Potassium Iodide. 20% in excess of Potassium Bicarbonate.	Vendor cautioned	
443	Medicine	17% in excess of Sodium Salicylate 14% in excess of Potassium Iodide. 11% in excess of Potassium Bicarbonate.	Vendor cautioned	
489	Butter	4·88% water in excess.	Legal proceedings instituted	Dismissed on a warranty defence
494	Butter	1·81% water in excess.	Legal proceedings instituted	Dismissed on a warranty defence
466	Preserved Cream	Contained 0·44 Boric Acid.	Vendor cautioned	
513	Self-Raising Flour	Contained 47·6 grains per lb (0·68%) of Calcium Sulphate in excess.	Legal proceedings instituted	Dismissed, the Justices upholding an objection by the defence as to the form in which the Analyst's Certificate was drawn up.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

There are no part-time officers on the staff of the Health Department and contributions under Public Health Acts or Exchequer Grants are made towards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector and the Health Visitors.

The Staff consists of :—

One Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer and Borough Bacteriologist.

One Sanitary Inspector, who is also Inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

One Assistant Sanitary Inspector, holding Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Four Health Visitors, two of whom in addition to being trained nurses hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board and the Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Two Clerks.

Two Disinfectors.

9.—HOUSING.

Housing conditions in the Borough remain as described in the Annual Report for 1919. No houses were erected during the year as part of a municipal scheme, the building of twenty houses by private enterprise does not materially affect the existing overcrowding and, no provision having been made for the population which would necessarily be displaced, action with regard to the areas represented by the Medical Officer of Health in 1919 has not yet been taken.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1921.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	20
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	Nil

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

(I.)—*Inspection.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	203
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	159
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	36

(II.)—*Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers'	104
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(III.)—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

(A) Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:— | | | | | |
| (a) | By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (3) | Numbers of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | 26 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:— | | | |
| (a) | By owners | ... | ... | 24 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | Nil |

(C) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (5) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |

The 15 houses demolished had Demolition Orders placed on them in 1920, and in each case demolition was carried out by the owner. In one instance a row of five houses had Demolition Orders placed on them in 1920, but the operation of the orders was postponed for a period of six months to allow reconstruction. They were dealt with as follows:—three were entirely demolished and two new dwelling houses were built on the cleared site, the other two were entirely re-constructed. In another case a very old house standing in its own grounds was demolished under an order and a new house erected on the site.

Increase of Rent (Restriction) Act, 1919.

During the year 15 applications for certificates from tenants of houses, under Sec. 2 (1) of this Act, were made to the Sanitary Authority. Each application was investigated and reported upon by the Sanitary Inspector and in eleven instances certificates were given that houses were not reasonably fit for human occupation or not kept in a reasonable state of repair. With the exception of one case, which at the end of the year was being contested in the County Court, the owners who desired to increase the rents of their properties on learning that such certificates had been given carried out the necessary works.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1921.

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., B.S., B.A.O., D.P.H.

School Medical Staff.

Ophthalmic Surgeon—

G. E. HALSTEAD, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., B.A. (Lond.).

X-Ray Treatment of Ringworm—

B. H. PALMER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), M.R.C.S., Eng.,
L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids—

(The Hon. Surgeons of Ramsgate General Hospital)

R. G. HICKS, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

E. FISK, M.D., B.S. Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

A. J. K. DREW, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

Dental Surgeon—

P. H. HICKMAN, L.D.S., R.C.S. Eng.

Health Visitors—

Miss A. ASHWELL.

Miss E. HALFORD.*†

Miss M. CRUISE.*†

Miss R. HOWELLS.

*Certificated Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

†Certificated Health Visitor, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerks—

S. GORHAM.

A. SAWORD.

School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health—

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., B.S., B.A.O. (Q.U. Belf.), D.P.H. (Lond.).

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

For the Year ended 31st December, 1921.

The following Report is drawn up on the lines suggested in a Memorandum from the Board of Education.

1.—STAFF.

The members of the School Medical Staff with the exception of the School Medical Officer and Health Visitors are part time officers. The two Clerks employed at the Health Office devote one half of their time to clerical work in connection with the School Medical Service. During the year the two School Health Visitors continued to give their whole time to school medical work, but, with a view to effecting greater economy in the work of the four Health Visitors employed by the Council, at the end of the year a scheme for the re-organisation of their work was adopted and subsequently approved by the Ministry of Health. By this re-arrangement of the work each Nurse will, from 1st January, 1922, carry out in an area assigned to her all the health visiting, school and infant welfare work required in that area, the need for more than one Nurse to visit any home will thus be avoided and each Nurse will come to have a better knowledge of the families in her area.

2.—CO-ORDINATION.

(a) Infant and Child Welfare Work:

Records of children who attend the Infant Welfare Centre are kept, and on reaching school age the clinic cards are sent to the School Medical Officer and are filed with records of routine medical inspection. The previous history of children is thus available when they come to be examined at the public elementary school as "Entrants."

(b) Nursery Schools:

There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough.

(c) Care of Debilitated Children under School Age:

The Local Education Authority take no direct action with regard to such children; the School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health, and administers on behalf of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee the Council's infant welfare scheme. Under the new arrangement for health visiting a Nurse who follows up defective school children in homes in the area assigned to her also reports to the Medical Officer of Health on debilitated children under school age in those homes and steps are taken to have such children examined at the Infant Clinic or otherwise dealt with.

3.—SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Hygienic conditions differ considerably in the nine public elementary schools in the Borough as regards surroundings, ventilation, lighting,

warming, equipment and sanitation. Two only of these schools are Provided Schools; they are the schools most recently constructed and as regards situation and general hygienic conditions are quite satisfactory. Most of the non-provided schools are old, of defective design, and as regards lighting, ventilation and equipment cannot be considered to comply with modern requirements.

In last year's annual report reference was made to the urgent need for improvement in the equipment of these schools, especially as regards the abolition of all antiquated ill-adjusted seats and desks, which must necessarily cause children to assume attitudes which lead to distortion of the body.

No practical action was taken during the year in this matter, and none of these desks were replaced by suitable modern desks of hygienic pattern.

The type and arrangement of sanitary conveniences in some of the schools is far from ideal; considerable improvement would be effected were boxed-in types replaced by modern pedestal wash-down closets supplied with separate flushing cisterns. Some of the urinals also need to be reconstructed. All the schools have lavatory basins and water from the public supply.

The caretakers maintain the schools and cloakrooms in a fair state of cleanliness.

As regards arrangements for drying children's clothes and boots, in two only of the schools are the cloakrooms heated.

4.—MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Routine Medical Inspections are always carried out in the school premises; in the most recently constructed schools a special room for these inspections is provided, but at the other schools children are examined either in a Head Teacher's room or more usually in a class-room, which, when possible, is temporarily vacated, the children being sent to another classroom or to the school playground. The Head Teachers heartily co-operate in securing the best arrangements at their schools for the conduction of the inspections, but at some schools it is quite impossible to secure reasonably satisfactory conditions, unavoidable noise rendering accurate examinations difficult, and testing of acuity of hearing by means of the whisper test impracticable, while poor lighting of some of the rooms used renders difficult the testing of acuity of vision. Parents who attend at the inspection of their children have to wait in the room in which the examinations are conducted, and, as mentioned in last year's report, the provision of a moveable screen in each school, for use in connection with inspections, would assist in securing a reasonable amount of privacy for examination.

(a) *Age Groups of the Children Inspected.*

The Children inspected during the year were the Code Groups of the Board of Education.

"Entrants" ...	...	Children admitted to schools during the year.
		Number inspected - 559
"Intermediates" ...	...	Children between 8 and 9 years of age.
		Number inspected - 345
"Leavers" ...	...	Children between 12 and 13 years of age and children over 13 years of age who have not already been examined after reaching the age of 12.
		Number inspected - 387

(b) *The Schedule of the Board of Education was followed.*

(c) *Steps taken to secure the earlier ascertainment of Crippling Defects.*

The defects in children of the code age groups are detected at the Routine Inspections, also by the examination of "Specials," *i.e.*, children of any age presented for examination by the Head Teachers at each visit of the School Medical Officer, to the Departments for the purpose of conducting Routine Medical Inspections, or specially sent for examination to the School Inspection Clinic at the Health Office on account of suspected illness or defect. The number of special cases examined at the schools during the year was 51, and the number examined at the School Clinic, which is open on five mornings each week, was 1801.

(d) *Extent to which disturbance of school arrangements was involved by the Medical Inspections.*

Reference has already been made to the unavoidable disturbance caused by the necessary vacation of classrooms while Routine Medical Inspections are conducted therein.

Many of the Head Teachers show a sympathetic interest in the work, and all possible is done to minimise the disturbance to school arrangements.

5.—FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(a) *Uncleanliness.*

In addition to the Routine examination of children by the School Medical Officer systematic surveys of all children in the schools were carried out by the School Health Visitors. At the Routine Inspections during the year, out of a total of 1,291 children, 42, or 3·2 per cent, were found to have unclean hair, and at the 72 surveys as to the uncleanliness of skin, hair, scalp and clothing, 12,049 examinations of children were made by the health Visitors, who found 47 children verminous and 227 with nitty hair. These children were excluded from school and their homes visited by the Health Visitors who explained to the parents or guardians measures indicated for the proper cleansing of the children. Printed directions are also given at these visits stating the necessity for prompt action in the matter and that the child will not be re-admitted to school until certified by the School Medical Officer at the School Clinic to have been cleansed and all nits to have been removed. During the year 4 children who were verminous and 13 children who had very nitty hair were at subsequent surveys again excluded owing to these conditions and it was necessary on 3 occasions to exclude 7 children owing to the very nitty condition of their hair.

If within seven days from exclusion such a certificate has not been secured, notice is sent that legal proceedings under the School Attendance Bye-Laws will be instituted if cleansing has not been carried out within a week.

These surveys, which are always made on "surprise" visits to the schools and the subsequent procedure outlined have effected considerable improvement as regards the cleanliness of the person and clothing of the children, and have greatly reduced the periods of absence from school owing to unclean conditions.

Legal proceedings under the Attendance Bye-Laws were instituted during the year in 12 instances as compared with 31 instances in 1920; the result of these proceedings were that in two cases fines of 5/- were imposed and in ten instances the cases were dismissed on payment of 5/- costs.

(b) Minor Ailments.

The minor ailments found during the year at the Routine Inspections and at the Inspection Clinic are detailed in Official Table II., and the number of children referred for treatment for these defects are summarised in Official Table IV. (a). Both these tables will be found at the end of the report.

It may here be stated that during the year 37 new cases of scalp ringworm came under observation, as compared with 40 in 1920; 45 cases of Scabies, as compared with 45 in 1920; 246 cases of Impetigo, as compared with 305 in 1920; 87 cases of external eye disease, as compared with 85 in 1920; 28 cases of ear disease, as compared with 41 in 1920.

(c) Tonsils and Adenoids.

During the year a total of 148 children were found to have enlargement of their tonsils or adenoid growths. The abnormal condition of the noses and throats of many of these children were found to yield to indirect treatment, such as the removal of carious teeth, etc., and 19 only received operative treatment for the removal of the growths.

(d) Tuberculosis.

Eleven children in pre-tubercular state came under observation at the Routine Medical Inspections while three children with definite pulmonary tuberculosis and four who were suspected to be suffering came under observation at the Inspection Clinic, or at the examinations of "specials" at the schools. These children and 16 others found to be suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were referred by the School Medical Officer for treatment and observation to the Tuberculosis Officer at the County Council's Dispensary in the town. In the absence of an open-air school in the Borough, many of these children have to be excluded from school for long periods.

(e), (f) and (h), Skin Diseases, External Eye Diseases and Ear Disease.

Referred to under heading "Minor Ailments."

(g) Vision.

During the year the number of children found to have defective vision, squint, or symptoms of eye strain, and who were referred for further examination by the Education Committee's Ophthalmic Surgeon was: At the Routine Inspections, 85; among "specials," 59.

(i) Dental Defects.

At the Routine Inspections by the School Medical Officer only 578 of the 1,291 children examined were found to have teeth in a perfectly sound condition. Of 563 children of the 6-8 age group examined at the schools by the School Dentist, it was found necessary to refer 248 for treatment.

(j) Crippling Defects.

During the year 7 children were found at the inspections to be suffering from organic heart disease, the degree of crippling caused thereby, of course, varying greatly. 29 children were found to have deformities; these included loss of fingers or limbs, the result of trauma or other causes, paralysis of different degrees following infantile paralysis, and the result of old rickets. Various degrees of crippling were caused in the cases of Tuberculosis referred to in (d) above.

6.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Throughout the year the School Medical Officer authorized the exclusion of children when their exclusion was desirable, to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, on the ground that their uncleanly or verminous condition was detrimental to the other scholars, or on the ground that owing to their state of health or their physical or mental defects, they were incapable of receiving proper benefits from the instruction in the school.

Certificates of exclusion are brought to the notice of the School Attendance Officers, who inform the Head Teachers. Children so excluded are not re-admitted to school until the School Medical Officer is satisfied that they can attend school without risk to themselves or others. The School Attendance Officers and the Head Teachers give information to the School Medical Officer in reference to children who are absent from school owing to illnesses which possibly may be infectious, and all such cases are investigated. During the year the number of intimations received from Head Teachers was 67; these included intimations in reference to 45 children who were suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from, chickenpox.

Children suffering from infectious diseases and contacts living in infected houses are excluded from school in accordance with the definite periods set out in the Board's Memorandum of Closure of and Exclusion from school.

7.—FOLLOWING-UP WORK.

Work of Health Visitors.

The arrangements for the following-up of children found at the medical inspections to be suffering from physical defects with a view to securing adequate treatment were outlined in the report for 1920.

As will be seen from the Tables, most of the children suffering from minor ailments were dealt with at the School Treatment Clinic, which they continued to attend until cured. A large number of children were dealt with at the special treatment clinics; of 286 children found to have defective vision who were referred for refraction no fewer than 266 were dealt with at the Eye Clinic; of 577 children referred for dental treatment 508 received treatment at the Dental Clinic. It is chiefly in connection with children who need treatment and whose parents promise the School Medical Officer at inspections or the Health Visitors at the homes that they will secure treatment privately, that difficulty arises. Too often it is found on re-visitation of these homes that the parents have failed to carry out their promises, and are still unwilling to avail of the facilities for treatment afforded by the Education Committee. In connection with many such cases the co-operation of the Head Teachers is sought, in others the members of the Children's Aid Committee have been successful in having adequate treatment secured. This following-up work was carried out chiefly by the Health Visitors, who during the year made 3,118 visits to the homes of school children and 135 visits to schools in this connection.

The Health Visitors attend on five mornings each week at the School Clinic and carry out the treatment of minor ailments under the direction and supervision of the School Medical Officer, one Health Visitor is always in attendance at each of the special clinics. They also make preparations for and attend at the Routine Medical Inspections, and carry out systematic surveys as to the cleanliness of children at the schools. The re-arrangement of the work of the Health Visitors has been referred to in paragraph 1. of this report.

8.—MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) Minor Ailments.

The great majority of school children suffering from such ailments are treated at the School Clinic till cured. The Health Visitors carry out treatment under the general supervision of the School Medical Officer. In cases in which proper supplementary treatment is found not to have been carried out at the home, the parents are visited and a demonstration of the correct methods of applying remedies, etc., there given by the Health Visitors.

The work at this clinic, which was held on five mornings each week, when the schools were in session, and was also open as required during the school holidays, increased considerably during the year, and the accommodation in the two rooms available at the Health Office was at times insufficient. Many of the parents attend at this clinic with their children, thus learning correct methods of dealing with minor ailments, and it is highly desirable that they should be encouraged to do so. It does not, however, tend towards this that they should be obliged to stand in the corridor while awaiting admission to the room in which treatment is given, owing to lack of accommodation in the waiting room.

The following summary shows the cases dealt with and the number of attendances at the School Clinic during the year :—

Disease or Condition.	No. of Children.	Attendances.
Impetigo	246	2,342
Verminous Impetigo... ..	4	23
Eczema, Seborrhoea, etc.	21	98
Abscesses, Whitlows, Cuts, Burns, Abrasions, etc.	352	2,139
Ringworm of Scalp	37	880
Ringworm of Body	24	229
Scabies	20	275
External Eye Disease	79	446
Otorrhoea	27	627
Nose, Mouth and Throat Conditions	219	559
Tuberculosis, all forms	42	187
Other Diseases or Condition... ..	591	2,858
	<hr/> 1,662	<hr/> 10,663

In addition 186 children who were convalescent from or contacts of infectious diseases made 456 attendances at the clinic for examination as to their fitness to attend school.

X-Ray Treatment for Scalp Ringworm.

This treatment is administered by means of the Education Committee's apparatus at the Health Office by Dr. B. H. Palmer, and during the year sixteen children received X-Ray treatment.

Also six children were treated privately by X-Rays.

Parents of children for whom this form of treatment is indicated are required to sign a special form of consent before treatment is given. Such consent is not always obtainable.

(b) Tonsils and Adenoids.

During the year 148 children who required some form of treatment on account of abnormal conditions of their tonsils or adenoid tissue came under observation. These children had various degrees of excessive or unhealthy naso-pharyngeal tissue, which was not due to

temporary inflammation, for which different forms of treatment—from the removal of a septic tooth to removal of the tissue by operation—were indicated. As a rule children are not referred for operative treatment for these conditions until measures directed to obtaining a healthier state of the mouth and naso-pharynx fail, after a reasonable trial, to produce improvement. Many of the cases yielded to the practice of regular breathing exercises following dental treatment.

During the year nineteen children were operated on for the removal of enlarged tonsils or adenoids; three of these received treatment privately, and sixteen at the Ramsgate General Hospital through the Education Committee's Scheme, under which the Hospital Authorities were paid £1 11s. 6d. in respect of 3 children of a group of seven or eight and £1 1s. for the others. Parents of children about to be operated on receive instructions from the School Medical Officer in reference to the preparation of their children, and after the operation every effort is made to follow up each child to ensure the continuation of regular breathing exercises and teeth cleaning.

(c) *Tuberculosis.*

It has been stated previously that children found at the inspections to be suffering from tuberculosis, and certain others suspected to be suffering from the disease, are referred to the County Council's Dispensary in the town for treatment by the Tuberculosis Officer, who periodically informs the School Medical Officer as to the fitness or otherwise of the children to attend school.

(d), (e) and (g) *dealt with under Minor Ailments.*

(f) *Vision.*

During the year 286 children referred for further examination owing to errors of refraction; of these 266 were submitted for refraction at the Eye Clinic which Dr. G. F. Halstead, the Education Committee's part-time Ophthalmic Surgeon conducted on 46 sessions during 1921. Seven other children received treatment privately. Glasses were prescribed for 235 children, and up to the end of the year had been procured in 229 cases. The children made 549 attendances at the Clinic.

Dr. Halstead reports, with reference to the new cases examined, as follows:—

25	...	Hypermetropia
61	...	Hypermetropia with Astigmatism
8	...	Myopia
19	...	Myopia with Astigmatism
10	...	Mixed Astigmatism
24	...	Strabismus
1	...	Paralysis of external rectus
2	...	Nystagmus
1	...	Ptosis

During the year the following cases were also referred to the Eye Clinic:—

3	Phlyctenular Ophthalmia	2	Hordeolum
3	Conjunctivitis	2	Anterior Synechiae
4	Blepharitis	3	Congenital Syphilis
2	Corneal Opacities		

(h) *Dental Defects.*

The Education Committee's Dental Scheme, which came into operation in December, 1919, provides for the inspection at the schools

and for treatment at the Dental Clinic at the Health Office of children of the 6-8 year group and for re-inspection and, when necessary, re-treatment in later years. The scheme also provides for treatment at the Dental Clinic of any child of any age attending a public elementary school, who may be referred for treatment as a "special" by the School Medical Officer.

During the year Mr. Hickman, the Committee's part-time Dental Surgeon devoted 9 sessions to inspection at the schools and 49 sessions to treatment at the Dental Clinic. Tables IV., D. (1) and (2) which will be found at the end of the report summarise the work. It will be seen that a large proportion of the children treated during the year were "specials"; these were chiefly children who, owing to facilities not having been available in former years, had remained untreated. Parents of children are invited to attend at the Dental Inspections, and during the year the School Dentist gave several lectures on the general hygiene of the mouth, to the assembled parents and children.

(i) Crippling Defects and Orthopaedics.

Few facilities exist in the Borough for the treatment of children with Crippling Defects. Cases of crippling due to tuberculosis are dealt with through the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and certain other cases receive operative treatment at the Ramsgate General Hospital. During the year three school children were referred for treatment to Orthopaedic Hospitals in London. The Central Help Committee render valuable assistance in such cases by defraying or partly defraying travelling expenses, etc., for necessitous parents. During the year one child suffering from severe deafness was sent by the Education Committee to the School for Deaf and Dumb Children, Margate.

Practically no facilities exist in the Borough for suitable after treatment for such cases, there is no open-air school, and no means of obtaining massage, electrical treatment, or remedial exercises.

9.—OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

There is no open-air school in the Borough. Open-air classes are held in the playground of the public elementary schools and it is highly desirable that every facility should be given to Head Teachers to increase the number of such classes. A definite need exists for a school in which certain children could be educated throughout the year under open-air conditions. There would be no difficulty in compiling a list of children who would undoubtedly greatly benefit, physically and mentally, were it possible to educate them in the open-air instead of, often, in none too well ventilated classrooms in which at present they spend at least 5 hours on five days each week.

10.—PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Physical exercises in accordance with the syllabus of the Board of Education are carried out in all the schools, and whenever possible, take place in the school playgrounds. The co-operation of Head Teachers is requested with reference to children found at the inspections to especially need breathing exercises, etc. There is no organiser of physical training for the area, but there is no doubt that general supervision by an expert of the physical education given in the schools of the Borough would be a distinct advantage; were some such arrangement made, an easy development which would be extremely useful would be the formation of classes for short periods of corrective exercise daily for children discovered at medical inspections to have commencing deformity, round shoulders, flat foot, etc.

11.—PROVISION OF MEALS.

The Provision of Meals Acts, 1906-1914, have not been adopted in the Borough. Arrangements are made by the Children's Aid Committee for the provision of meals, milk, etc., through voluntary sources in definite instances of under feeding of children of necessitous parents on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer.

12.—SCHOOL BATHS.

There are no baths at the schools.

13.—CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

Parents are always invited to attend at the Schools during the Routine Medical Inspections of their children. If present and a defect is discovered in a child advice is given as to need for obtaining treatment; if not present the child is followed up by one of the Health Visitors at the home.

During the year

288 parents attended at the routine inspections of 559 Entrants.

122 parents attended at the routine inspections of 345 Intermediates.

74 parents attended at the routine inspections of 387 Leavers.

14.—CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

Several references have been made previously in this report to the assistance given by teachers in connection with medical inspections; it may be added that they compile from the school registers lists of children of the code groups due for routine medical inspections. At each visit of the School Medical Officer to a department for the purpose of conducting routine medical inspection, the Head Teacher presents for examination, as "specials," all children who are not due for routine inspection but are suffering from or suspected to be suffering from any defect or ailment. They also throughout the year refer such children to the inspection clinic at the Health Office. Some of the Head Teachers take great interest in the work, and personally attend at the routine inspections. In view of the great influence which teachers have with parents, an asset of the greatest importance to the success of the school medical work is the co-operation of all teachers in doing everything possible to secure appropriate treatment for children suffering from remediable defects.

15.—CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

These officers bring to the notice of the School Medical Officer children absent from school who are said to be ill, but not under treatment by a doctor, and such children are referred to the school clinic or, when necessary, enquiries are made at the homes. As has been stated, certificates of exclusion from school and of fitness to attend given by the School Medical Officer are each day brought to the notice of the Attendance Officers, who accordingly inform the Head Teachers and see that the certificates are acted upon.

Certificates as to illness of school children given by local medical practitioners are, on receipt, submitted to the School Medical Officer. The School Attendance Officers are informed by the School Medical Officer of all children who have not been cleansed within seven days after having been excluded; enquiries are made by them as to the existence of any special circumstances, such as temporary incapacity of the mother, which might influence the School Attendance Committee in deciding as to the institution of legal proceedings under the Attendance Bye-Laws.

16.—CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

Through the Children's Aid Fund of the Central Help Committee, children of necessitous parents are, on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer, supplied with Cod Liver Oil and Malt, Milk, Free Meals, etc., and travelling expenses are defrayed in connection with children for whom treatment at London Hospitals is necessary.

The Ramsgate Children's Aid Committee assist the following up of children, arrange through voluntary funds for the supplies of milk, etc., in necessitous cases, arrange for and meet the expenses of sending debilitated and other children to convalescent homes, and after investigation report to the Education Committee as to the ability of parents to pay the cost or part cost of spectacles supplied through the Eye Clinic.

17.—BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

(a) The model arrangements of the Board of Education under the Elementary School (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, and the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, have been adopted by the Local Education Authority.

Such children are detected at the Routine Medical Inspections and at the examination of "specials" at the schools and inspection clinic. Cases of defective vision are referred for treatment and are usually dealt with at the Eye Clinic, cases of deafness are referred for appropriate treatment, some receiving operative treatment for abnormal throat and nose conditions through the Education Committee's Scheme. These cases are followed up and in instances of severe defects which after treatment do not show improvement sufficient to enable benefit to be derived from instruction at a public elementary school, arrangements are made by the Education Committee for education at suitable institutions. As already stated one child was during the year admitted to the School for Deaf and Dumb Children, Margate.

(b) There is no special school in the Borough and no facilities for the education of educable mentally deficient children. Efforts made by the Education Committee during the year to secure accommodation in an approved institution for a particularly suitable educable mentally deficient boy proved unsuccessful.

18.—NURSERY SCHOOLS.

There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough.

19.—SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

All work in connection with the Secondary Schools in the Borough is carried out by the Kent County Council.

20.—CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

Such schools have not yet been established in the Borough.

21.—EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

The School Medical Officer is the certifying officer of the Local Education Authority under the Employment of Children Act, 1903. Ramsgate is not an industrial town, and employment for children is practically limited to delivering newspapers and milk, running errands for tradesmen, or in the case of girls assisting at homes.

TABLE I.

Number of Children inspected 1st January, 1921, to 31st December, 1921.

(A.)—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Age.	Entrants.			
	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.
Boys ...	188	95	23	306
Girls ...	159	81	13	253
Totals ...	347	176	36	559

Age.	Intermediate Group.	Leavers.			Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.
		8	12	13	14		
Boys ...	201	142	28	7	19	397	703
Girls ...	144	142	27	10	12	335	588
Totals ...	345	284	55	17	31	732	1291

(B.)—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

			Special Cases.		Re-examinations i.e., (No. of Children re-examined).
			At Schools.	At Clinic.	
Boys ...	...	...	18	859	204
Girls ...	...	...	33	942	143
Totals ...	...	...	51	1801	347

(C.)—TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER, whether as Routine or Special Cases (no child being counted more than once in one year).

Number of Individual Children Inspected.
2489

TABLE II.
Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1921.

Defect or Disease.						Routine Inspection		Specials.	
						Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
(1)						(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition					24	1	23	3
	Uncleanliness :								
	Head... ..					42	—	264	—
	Body... ..					9	—	1	—
	Ringworm :								
	Head... ..					1	—	36	—
	Body... ..					1	—	23	—
	Scabies					—	—	20	—
	Impetigo					14	—	232	—
	Other Diseases (non-tubercular) ...					12	—	229	—
Eye	Blepharitis					2	—	16	—
	Conjunctivitis					3	—	13	—
	Keratitis					—	—	2	—
	Corneal Ulcer					—	—	1	—
	Corneal Opacities					1	4	1	—
	Defective Vision					78	10	56	2
	Squint					7	—	3	—
Ear	Other Conditions					3	—	43	—
	Defective Hearing					12	—	3	—
	Otitis Media					5	—	25	—
	Other Ear Diseases					—	—	13	—
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils					17	17	43	1
	Adenoids					3	2	3	1
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids ...					34	1	27	—
	Other Conditions					17	3	4	—
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular)					8	2	12	—
	Defective Speech					19	2	—	—
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :								
	Organic					2	5	1	—
	Functional					1	3	1	1
	Anaemia					5	—	12	1
Lungs	Bronchitis					5	2	8	—
	Other Non-Tubercular Diseases ...					2	1	10	—
	Pulmonary :								
	Definite					—	—	3	1
	Suspected					11	—	3	1
Tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary :								
	Glands					4	2	6	—
	Spine... ..					—	2	—	—
	Hip					1	—	1	—
	Other Bones and Joints					2	1	1	—
	Skin					—	—	1	—
	Other Forms					—	—	—	2
Nervous System	Epilepsy					2	—	2	—
	Chorea					1	—	3	1
	Other Conditions					—	2	4	—
Deformities	Rickets					—	4	—	—
	Spinal Curvature					3	5	1	—
	Other Forms					4	14	2	—
	Other Defects and Diseases ...					14	3	670	14

Number of Individual Children having defects which require treatment or to be kept under observation, 1436.

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1921.

			Boys	Girls	Total
Blind. (including partially blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	1	3
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	1	1
Deaf and Dumb. (including partially deaf) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	1	1	2
		Not at School	1	—	1
Mentally Deficient	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	—	1
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	—	—	—
		Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority dur- ing the year	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—
	Imbeciles	At School	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—
		Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year	—	—	—
	Idiots	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year	—	—	—
Epileptics		Attending Public Elementary Schools	3	2	5
		Attending Certified Schools for Ep- ileptics	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	1	1	2
Physically Defective	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physi- cally Defective Children	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	5	4	9
	Crippling due to Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	4	3	7
		Attending Certified Schools for Physi- cally Defective Children	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	3	2	5
	Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis, i.e. Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism	Attending Public Elementary Schools	9	13	22
		Attending Certified Schools for Physi- cally Defective Children	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	1	1	2
	Other Physical Defectives, e.g. delicate & other children suitable for admission to Open-Air Schools. Children suffer- ing from severe heart disease.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	17	15	32
		Attending Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physi- cally Defective Children other than Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	2	3	5
Dull or Backward*		Retarded 2 years	38	33	71
		Retarded 3 years	19	15	34

*Judged according to age and standard. No case retarded more than 3 years included in this category, unless it has been decided after examination by the Medical Officer that the child is not mentally defective.

TABLE IV.

Treatment of Defects of Children during 1921.

(A.)—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Skin :—				
Ringworm, Head ...	37	37	—	37
Ringworm, Body ...	24	24	—	24
Scabies	20	20	—	20
Impetigo	250	209	41	250
Minor Injuries ...	375	352	5	357
Other Skin Diseases ...	551	513	28	541
Ear Disease	28	27	1	28
Eye Disease (external and other)	87	79	8	87
Miscellaneous... ..	319	166	120	286

(B.)—TREATMENT OF VISUAL DEFECT.

Number of Children.									
Referred for Refraction.	Submitted to Refraction.				For whom Glasses were Prescribed.	For whom Glasses were Provided.	Recommended for Treatment other than by Glasses.	Received other forms of Treatment.	For whom no Treatment was considered necessary.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme, Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Otherwise.	Total.					
286	266	5	2	273	235	229	3	2	8

(C.)—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Referred for Treatment.	Number of Children.			
	Received Operative Treatment.			Received Other Forms of Treatment
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme, Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Total.	
148	16	3	19	93

(D.)—TREATMENT OF DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1)—*Number of Children dealt with.*

	AGE GROUPS.				Specials.	Total.
	5	6	7	8		
(a) Inspected by Dentist	38	336	175	14		563
(b) Referred for Treatment	248				329	577
(c) Actually Treated ...	189				319	508
(d) Re-treated (result of periodical Examination... ..)	32				13	45

(2)—*Particulars of Time given and Operations Undertaken.*

Number of Half-days devoted to Inspection.	Number of Half-days devoted to Treatment.	Total Number of Attendances made by the Children at the Clinic.	Number of Permanent Teeth.		Number of Temporary Teeth.		Total Number of Fillings.	Number of Administrations of General Anæsthetics included in 4 and 6.	Number of other Operations.	
			Extracted.	Filled.	Extracted.	Filled.			Permanent Teeth.	Temporary Teeth.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
9	49	612	162	80	666	4	84	—	—	—

TABLE V.

Summary of Treatment of Defects as shown in Table IV.
(A., B., C., and D.).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		Total.
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	
Minor Ailments	1622	1402	159	1561
Visual Defects	286	266	7	273
Defects of Nose and Throat	148	16	96	112
Dental Defects	577	508	17	525
Other Defects	57	21	36	57
Total	2690	2213	315	2528

Many Children are included under more than one heading in this Table.

TABLE VI.

Summary relating to Children Medically Inspected at the Routine Inspections during the Year 1921.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspections	1291
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)... ..	86
(3) The number of children in (1) suffering from —	
Malnutrition	25
Skin Disease	28
Defective Vision (including squint	95
Eye Disease	13
Defective Hearing	12
Ear Disease	17
Nose and Throat Disease	94
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular)	10
Defective Speech	21
Dental Disease	713
Heart Disease —	
Organic	7
Functional	4
Anaemia	5
Lung Disease (non-tubercular)	10
Tuberculosis —	
Pulmonary —	
Definite	—
Suspected	11
Non-pulmonary —	12
Diseases of the Nervous System	5
Deformities	30
Other Defects and Diseases	17
(4) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	540
(5) The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (including uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	445

